

necessary to care for our environment in the future. Thus, objectives are met for both environmental education and the *Show-Me Standards*.

Our Services Feature

- ◆ Serving as environmental education consultants to teachers, school districts and organizations.
- ◆ Providing graduate-level college courses and in-service training on various environmental topics to educators.
- ◆ Presenting environmental information at professional conferences.
- ◆ Disseminating information and conducting educational programs concerning solid waste issues.
- ◆ Searching for existing environmental education materials for use in Missouri and developing new materials when appropriate materials are not available.
- ◆ Serving as the state sponsor of Project WET (Water Education for Teachers).
- ◆ Serving as facilitators for Project WET, Project WILD, Project Learning Tree and the Leopold Education Project.
- ◆ Distributing environmental education materials to teachers and schools.
- ◆ Developing articles for "Teacher's Notebook," a regular feature in the department's *Missouri*

Resources magazine.

- ◆ Serving as an active partner in the Missouri Environmental Education Association.

For additional information on environmental education assistance, please call, send us a fax or visit our home page. We will be glad to help you.

Missouri Department of Natural Resources

Communications and Education Office
Environmental Education
P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Phone:

1-800-361-4827

or

(573) 751-3443

Fax:

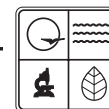
(573) 751-8084

Home Page:

www.dnr.mo.gov/oac

E-mail:

oac@dnr.mo.gov



Missouri
Department of
Natural Resources

Environmental Education:

**Meeting the
Show-Me Standards**

Outreach and
Assistance Center

Communications and
Education Office



The Communications and Education Office

The Communications and Education Office is a non-regulatory service of the Department of Natural Resources' Outreach and Assistance Center. Our mission is to provide environmental information and education to Missouri citizens.

The Environmental Education Mission

A healthy environment is critical to a high quality of life and to the economic vitality of our state. Environmentally literate citizens recognize the consequences of their own actions and make informed choices that will protect their health. An environmentally literate citizenry begins with environmental education.

The mission of environmental education is to promote responsible citizen actions that enhance environmental quality. Such actions depend upon knowledge of the natural and built environments, understanding the issues and making informed decisions on those issues. Only when citizens have the skills needed to take action will solutions be found for many environmental issues.

Environmental Education Approach

Environmental education involves a multidisciplinary process that focuses on critical analysis of environmental

issues by gathering information; organizing information; interpreting information to draw conclusions and make inferences; and making a personal commitment to responsible action. Students need to understand that decisions made with regard to controversial issues often have profound ramifications for their lives and the lives of future generations. Environmental education provides students with skills on how to think, not what to think. Teacher training is the key in meeting objectives for environmental education.

Environmental Education and the *Show-Me Standards*

Through pre- or in-service training, teachers gain competencies in environmental concepts, facilitating higher order thinking skills (critical thinking, problem solving and decision making) and performance-based assessment. The environment can provide real issues for developing higher order thinking skills in students when presented by trained teachers. Teachers trained with this environmental education approach will be able to make a smooth transition to the instructional methods change mandated by the *Show-Me Standards*.

Environmental education staff focus on assisting teachers to enhance their students' proficiency in the knowledge, skills and competencies listed in the *Show-Me Standards*. The department's environmental education activities are generally correlated with the following standards:

Performance (Process) Standards

1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 1.6, 1.7, 1.8, 1.10
2.1, 2.2, 2.3
3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.5, 3.6, 3.7, 3.8
4.1, 4.4, 4.5, 4.6, 4.7

Knowledge (Content) Standards

SC1, SC3, SC4, SC5, SC7, SC8
SS2, SS3, SS4, SS5, SS7
MA1, MA2, MA3
CA3, CA4, CA6
HP6
FA4

The environment is a recurring theme in Missouri's Frameworks for Curriculum Development. Environmental topics are included on 30 percent of the pages of the major strands for science and social studies frameworks and 21 percent for communication arts.

In addition, a 1997 Roper Survey found that 95 percent of adults in the United States and 96 percent of parents support environmental education being taught in schools. The same survey revealed that the public supports environmental protection.

Americans are seeking balance between environmental protection and economic growth, citizens are willing to pay more for products and services to protect the environment. This concerned public must acquire knowledge and skills in responsible action to maintain a high level of environmental quality.

Teachers trained with this environmental education approach can lead their students to develop the skills